

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03921 171256Z

41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 GSA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 STR-08 DRC-01 INT-08 /212 W

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P R 171200Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3376

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3921

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EMIN JM

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT TO OEPN DISCUSSIONS WITH ALUMINUM
COMPANIES

REF: KINGSTON 3588

1. SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE ALUMINA
PARTNERS OF JAMAICA (ALPART) EARLY THIS WEEK.
MINISTER OF MINES AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ALAN ISAACS
DISCLOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA WILL SHORTLY
ENTER INTO "SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY
CONCERNING THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY".
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ISAACS SAID THAT THE JAMAICAN
BAUXITE INDUSTRY HAD NOW COME OF AGE, AND IT WAS NOW
THE SITUATION TO SIT DOWN AND TALK BUSINESS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT. ISAACS REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT JAMAICA
STOOD TO GAIN IN REVENUE FROM ITS BAUXITE RESOURCES AND
THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE JAMAICAN
PARTICIPATION IN THE INDUSTRY AS WELL AS GREATER ALUMINA
PRODUCTION. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, ISAACS ALSO
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PAGE 02 KINGST 03921 171256Z

EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ABSOLUTELY NO

HOSTILITY TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND IN FACT
WOULD ALWAYS WELCOME SUCH INVESTMENT

2. THE GROUP TO WHICH ISAACS SPOKE INCLUDED JOHN B. PLACE, PRESIDENT OF THE ANACONDA COMPANY; GEORGE WALTERS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF REYNOLDS METALS, AND CORNEL MIER, PRESIDENT OF THE KAISER ALUMINUM COMPANY. ALCAN, REYNOLDS, AND KAISER ARE THE CHIEF PARTICIPANTS OF ALPART. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ALL THREE ALUMINUM EXECUTIVES ASSURED THE MINISTER OF THEIR INTEREST IN OPENING A DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY.

3. ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY NEWS FEATURED PROMINENT EDITORIALS STRONGLY SUPPORTING ISAAC'S INTENTION TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY. THE THURSDAY EDITORIAL EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE COMPANIES WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET JAMAICAN ASPIRATIONS IN TERMS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY. IT RECALLED THE NEGATIVE REACTION IN JAMAICA PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S TAKEOVER OF ALCAN'S INTEREST IN GUYANA, BUT INDICATED THAT THE GOJ SHOULD FORGE AHEAD NOTWITHSTANDING. IT ALSO RECALLED PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S OFT REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT JAMAICA IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE COMPANIES. THE FRIDAY EDITORIAL ALSO APPLAUDS ISAAC'S INITIATIVE BUT TAKES THE GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR HAVING DELAYED THIS IMPORTANT STEP UNTIL NOW.

4. COMMENT: ISAAC'S SPEECH TO SOME OF THE TOP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS IN THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY SUGGESTS THAT HE MEANT EXACTLY WHAT HE SAID IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME LAST MONTH (REFTEL). THE SPEECH ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT POSITION IN THOSE TALKS WILL BE AS DESCRIBED IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME. HEWITT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALUMINUM, BAUXITE, PRESS COMMENTS, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, NATURAL RESOURCES, MEETINGS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST03921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731127/aaaaatqb.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINGSTON 3588
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT TO OEPN DISCUSSIONS WITH ALUMINUM COMPANIES
TAGS: PINT, EMIN, JM, ALUMINUM PARTNERS OF JAMAICA, (ISSACS, ALAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005